

## Mid-East Prophecy Update – August 7th, 2011

- Every week, since back in 2006, we have set aside a few minutes on Sunday mornings so as to devote some time to studying Bible prophecy.
- The reason that we do this is because the Bible predicts certain specific events that will take place in the last days before the Lord returns.
- We believe that what's happening in the world today is a fulfillment of those Bible Prophecies, and that the rapture could happen at any time.
- We look primarily at events in the Middle East, specifically related to Israel because, as it's been said; "Israel is God's prophetic clock."
- For those of you following the events in Syria, and here in the United States, you're probably thinking about Isaiah 17, and Revelation 13.

- Last week, we began, by way of an introduction, a mini-series on why the rapture of the church must happen before the seven year tribulation.
- This week, we'll begin part one in our study of the pre-tribulation rapture and how absolutely vital it is to know why we believe what we believe.
- Before we jump in the Word, I deem it necessary to both clarify and qualify something so as to not be misunderstood as to why I'm doing this.

- Perhaps it would be best to first clarify why I'm not doing this. It is not my intention to convince anyone to believe in the pre-tribulation rapture.
- Furthermore, I possess neither the time, nor the interest in endless and worthless debate with those looking for an argument; not an answer.
- The reason that I take this posture, especially with the touchy topic of the rapture, is that in so doing, I give the Holy Spirit permission to do it.

**John 14:16-17 NIV** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— (17) the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

**John 16:13-15 NIV** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. (14) He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. (15) All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

- So, why then am I doing a series on the pre-tribulation rapture? I'm doing this to equip you and prepare you for that which is prepared for you.
- You will face increasing opposition even from Christians who hold a different view requiring to every man an answer of this hope within you.
- In other words, it's for the benefit of those who believe in the pre-tribulation rapture, so as to know the "why" behind the "what" of the rapture.
- The "seven" reasons "why" the rapture of the church of Jesus Christ has to happen before the "seven" year tribulation begins are as follows:

**R** EVELATION TO US

**A** FFECT UPON US

**P** URITY OF US

**T** RUMPETS FOR US

**U** NIFORMITY WITH US

**R** ESPONSIBILITY ON US

**E** NCOURAGEMENT FROM US

**Revelation 1:19 NIV** "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

**Revelation 4:1 NIV** After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

"...In verse one, (of chapter four) when He's finished with the messages to the churches, He introduces a new section with the Greek word, 'metatauta' (after these things), that He also used in 1:19. We need to ask, "After what things?" After the things of chapters two and three. The things of chapters two and three are the things of the church. So after the things that pertain to the church..."

(Chuck Smith - Calvary Chapel Distinctives "The Rapture of the Church")

- Unique to the book of Revelation is, what's been called a divine outline in that John is told to write what was past, present, and then yet future.
- This feature in Revelation, makes both studying it, and teaching it, so exciting because of the built-in chronological order to this amazing book.
- It's for this reason, that the book of Revelation, is just that, a revelation in relation, to the rapture, in order chronologically with the tribulation.

SCRIPTURE	CHAPTER(S)	EVENT(S)
What you have seen... (Past)	1	Jesus Christ Crucified-Buried-Resurrected
What is now (Present)	2 & 3	Church History (Church mentioned 19 times)
What will take place after (Future)	4 & 5	The Rapture
What will take place after (Future)	6 - 19	The Tribulation (Church not mentioned)
What will take place after (Future)	20	The Millennium
What will take place after (Future)	21 & 22	The New Heavens & Earth

SCRIPTURE	CHAPTER(S)	EVENT(S)	FEAST
What you have seen... (Past)	1	Jesus Christ Crucified-Buried-Resurrected	Passover-Unleavened Bread-First Fruits
What is now... (Present)	2 and 3	Church History ("Church" found 19 times)	Pentecost (Harvest)
What will take place later (Future)	4 and 5	The Rapture	Trumpets
What will take place later (Future)	6 through 19	The Tribulation (Church not mentioned)	Day of Atonement
What will take place later (Future)	20	The Millennium	Tabernacles
What will take place later (Future)	21 and 22	The New Heavens & Earth	Tabernacles